

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10051

FOR EUR/VEST ONLY FROM LUERS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS XA PGOV GE
SUBJECT: GDR AND AFRICA

1. UK FCO UNDER SECRETARY HIBBERT TOLD ME IN WASHINGTON JUST BEFORE MY DEPARTURE A TALE ABOUT EAST GERMAN ACTIVITY IN AFRICA THAT DESERVES TELLING.

2. HIBBERT RECENTLY CALLED ON GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER KLAUS WILLEDDING IN BERLIN. HIBBERT HAD KNOWN WILLEDDING WHEN THEY SERVED TOGETHER IN ULAN BATOR, WHERE THEY HAD SOME GOOD CHATS.

3. ACCORDING TO HIBBERT WILLEDDING IS ONE OF THE FEW "BELIEVING" AND FANATIC COMMUNISTS HE HAS MET. AFTER MONGOLIA WILLEDDING SERVED AS GDR AMBASSADOR IN HANOI, WHERE HE MUST HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN EAST GERMAN TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR NORTH VIETNAM DURING THE WAR.

3. WILLEDDING IS NOW IN CHARGE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN BERLIN. HIBBERT SAID THAT IN THEIR MEETING WILLEDDING GAVE A MOST FORCEFUL IDEOLOGICAL RATIONALE FOR EAST GERMAN AND SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT TOGETHER WITH THE CUBANS AND THE SOVIETS THE EAST GERMANS WOULD FREE AFRICA OF "CAPITALIST
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WHITE RACISTS." THEY WOULD DECOLONIALIZE AFRICANS AND LIBERATE THEM AT LAST. ACCORDING TO HIBBERT, WILLEDDING MADE NO EFFORT TO PLAY DOWN THE GDR ROLE OR JUSTIFY IT IN PRACTICAL STATE POWER TERMS. HE DEMONSTRATED A CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE OF DEVELOPMENTS, OBVIOUSLY WAS DEEPLY INVOLVED IN GDR AFRICAN PROGRAMS AND JUSTIFIED THESE ACTIVITIES IN IDEOLOGICAL ANTI-COLONIAL TERMS. WILLEDDING SEEMED PER-

SUADED THAT AFRICA WOULD IN TIME BE AN AREA WHERE SOVIET
(AND EAST GERMAN) INFLUENCE WOULD DOMINATE.

4. I SEND YOU THIS IN THE THOUGHT THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO
REPEAT IT TO BERLIN AND MOSCOW, AND PROVIDE TO INR. SINCE
HIBBERT WILL BE IN WASHINGTON SOMEONE MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE
THAN I MIGHT WANT TO TALK TO HIM IN MORE DEPTH ABOUT WILLE-
DING, WHO APPEARS WELL SUITED TO FEED OUR COLLECTIVE
PARANOIA, BE HE A ROGUE OR A REBORN LENINIST, OR BOTH.
GARDNER

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